

Claims

- [c1] 1. A handheld electronic communications device, comprising:
- a housing supporting communication electronics and a display, the housing having a periphery;
 - a first platform integrated into the housing and supporting a first set of keys, the first set of keys being a subset of a full set of alphabetic keys, the full set of alphabetic keys comprising raised key buttons;
 - a second platform supporting a second set of keys, the second set of keys being a subset of the full set of alphabetic keys;
 - a hinge coupled between the first platform and the second platform, the hinge allowing movement of the second platform from a first position to a second position, wherein the second platform in the first position is within the periphery.
- [c2] 2. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the second platform in the first position conceals the alphabetic keys from view.
- [c3] 3. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the alphabetic keys comprise a QWERTY keyboard.

- [c4] 4. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the second platform in the second position allows the user to hold the housing in one hand and to type with the thumbs.
- [c5] 5. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the electronic device includes a mobile phone transceiver.
- [c6] 6. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises cellular phone capabilities.
- [c7] 7. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises handheld computer capabilities.
- [c8] 8. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises personal digital assistant capabilities.
- [c9] 9. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises wireless e-mail capabilities.
- [c10] 10. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, wherein the configuration of the first set of keys is symmetrical with the configuration of the second set of keys.
- [c11] 11. The handheld electronic device of claim 1, further comprising at least one input key that is exposed when

the second platform is in the first position.

- [c12] 12. The handheld electronic device of claim 11, wherein at least one of the at least one input keys is an application launching key.
- [c13] 13. The handheld electronic device of claim 11, wherein at least one of the at least one input keys is a navigation key.
- [c14] 14. The handheld electronic device of claim 11, wherein the at least one input keys includes at least one navigation key and at least one application launching key.
- [c15] 15. A method of providing textual information to a handheld electronic device, comprising:
providing a handheld electronic device with a support area, the support area supporting a first subset of keys of a set of raised keys, and the support area being an integrated portion of a housing for the handheld electronic device;
rotating a platform, supporting a second subset of keys of the set of keys, about a hinge supported by the support area, to expose the set of keys to a user, the platform being configured such that when the set of keys is not exposed to the user, the platform and the support area are within an outer periphery of the housing;

typing using the set of keys, the typing generating input to the electronic device.

- [c16] 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
rotating the platform about the hinge to conceal the set of keys from view.
- [c17] 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the set of keys comprises alphabetic keys.
- [c18] 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the set of keys comprises alphanumeric keys.
- [c19] 19. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
holding the housing in one hand; and
typing with the thumbs.
- [c20] 20. The method of claim 15, wherein the electronic device includes a mobile phone transceiver.
- [c21] 21. The method of claim 15, wherein the electronic device comprises cellular phone capabilities.
- [c22] 22. The method of claim 15, wherein the electronic device comprises handheld computer capabilities.
- [c23] 23. The method of claim 15, wherein the electronic device comprises personal digital assistant capabilities.
- [c24] 24. The method of claim 15, wherein the electronic de-

vice comprises wireless e-mail capabilities.

- [c25] 25. The method of claim 15, wherein the first set of keys is configured on the support area symmetrically with the second set of keys on the platform.
- [c26] 26. The method of claim 15, further comprising:
activating at least one button when the set of keys is concealed from view.
- [c27] 27. A keyboard for an electronic communications device, comprising:
a folding section supporting a first subset of keys of a set of raised keys;
a fixed section supporting a second subset of keys of the set of keys;
a coupling enabling movement of the folding section relative to the fixed section, the first subset of keys being concealed from view when the folding section is in a closed position, and the folding section is substantially within a footprint of the electronic communications device when in the closed position.
- [c28] 28. The keyboard of claim 20, further comprising:
a hinge coupling the folding section and the fixed section.
- [c29] 29. The keyboard of claim 20, wherein the fixed section

is integrated into a body of the electronics communications device.

- [c30] 30. The keyboard of claim 20, wherein the electronic communications device comprises at least one navigation button on a body of the electronic communications device that is not concealed from view when the folding section is in the closed position.